The scheduled Called Meeting for a Public Hearing of the Tift County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Grady Thompson on Monday, July 18, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Administrative Building. Member of the Commission present including Chairman Thompson were Commissioners Donnie Hester and Robert Setters.

Chairman Thompson called to order the Called Meeting of the Tift County Board of Commissioners at 6:00 P.M.

Chairman Thompson opened the scheduled Public Hearing to hear any comments on the proposed Property Tax Increase.

**Public Hearing:**

The County Manager and the Finance Director were present for the public hearing to help answer and questions from the public concerning the proposed property tax increase. A power point presentation was prepared for the explanation. The County Manager advised that the budget process had been completed and tonight we are here to discuss the property tax. If you live outside of the City of Tifton, TyTy and Omega your rate will remain the same. If you live inside the City of Tifton your taxes are going up.

The City of Tifton has given the County notification that they want to dissolve Interlocal Agreements for joint services that were provided. The county no long receives the funding of these services from the City through a Special Tax District that you paid. The revenue has to be made up from somewhere in the amount of approximately $900,000. This is the reason the County will have to raise taxes on the citizens that live within the City Limits of Tifton.

The County Manager advised that the last Tax Increase was in 2004 and had held flat until this year. The increase this year resulted strictly from a shift of services from the City of Tifton.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Ray, Mr. Home Gandy and Mr. Warren Houseworth were present at the public hearing. Mrs. Ray had several questions of which the County Manager answered. She asked if we had considered a fair tax. The County Manager explained that is out of the control of the local governing authority; that would be on a State level. Mr. Gandy stated he was here to listen and learn what was going on. Mr. Houseworth also explained that he was here to see what was going on but stated that Tift County is nothing like it used to be and that we have got to do something to get this City and County thriving again.

There were no further comments.

The Chairman closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman Grady Thompson, District 7

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Vice Chairman, Robert Setters, District 3

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Commissioner Donnie Hester, District 1

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Commissioner Melissa Chevers, District 2

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Commissioner Sherry Miley, District 4

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Commissioner F. W. (Buck) Rigdon, Dist. 5

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Commissioner C. Michael Jones, District 6

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Glynda Hemby, County Clerk

7/18/2011 Meeting